

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,
and workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, June 4, 2004

METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT MOURNS LOSS OF ON-DUTY POLICE OFFICER

Sergeant John S. Ashley was on routine patrol in the Second District on Sunday, May 30, when he stopped to assist a young lady who was trying to catch her dog. He fell unconscious after running a short distance. With CPR in process, he was transported to George Washington University Hospital. Unfortunately, he did not survive. Sergeant Ashley was a 7-year veteran of the Metropolitan Police Department. He joined the force on January 27, 1997 and began his career in the Sixth District. He served as an investigator in the Seventh District, a sergeant in the Fourth District and was last assigned as sergeant in the Second District. While a detective, Sergeant Ashley was instrumental in the closure of a car-bombing incident on upper Wisconsin Avenue, NW, in the summer of 2002. As a result of his active policing in the Second District, he developed lasting relationships with community members. Commander Jeffrey Moore characterized Ashley as having a "great work ethic...he died doing something he loved."

- ① Further details on Sergeant John S. Ashley are available on the MPDC's online memorial at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/heroes/officers/2000/ashley.shtm>.

- ① Share your personal remembrance of Sergeant Ashley on the MPDC website at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/heroes/memory/remembrance.shtm>

OFF-DUTY MPD OFFICER DIES DURING ARMED ROBBERY IN MARYLAND

At approximately 4:15 am, on June 2, 2004, officers from the Prince George's County Police Department responded to the 5400 block of Livingston Terrace in Oxon Hill, MD, where Sergeant Clifton Rife II was found suffering from a gunshot wound he obtained during an apparent robbery attempt. Sergeant Rife, who was off-duty at the time of the robbery, had been assigned to the Department's Major Narcotics Branch. At some point during the robbery, the Rife discharged his service weapon and killed the suspect. Sergeant Clifton Rife II, born July 31, 1969, became a member of the Department on November 5, 1990. After graduating from the academy, Sergeant Rife began his career in the Seventh District, where he served until being assigned to the Institute of Police (IPS) Science on March 28, 2000. Rife left IPS, then returned as a sergeant, until he joined the Major Narcotics Branch, his last assignment, on January 23, 2003. Sergeant Rife's personnel jacket includes 16 commendations for various actions, including a heroic effort in 1996 where he entered a burning building to assist in a house fire and suffered smoke inhalation. "He will be sorely missed," said Lt. Richard Mattiello of the Major Narcotics Branch.

- ① Read more about Sergeant Rife at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/heroes/officers/2000/rife.shtm>

- ① Share your personal remembrance of Sergeant Rife on the MPDC website at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/heroes/memory/remembrance.shtm>

SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY TO REMAIN AVAILABLE TO PUBLIC

The DC Court of Appeals ruled that certain sex offenders in DC must continue informing police of their whereabouts. The decision was made on Thursday, June 3, 2004, and it basically upheld the lower court rulings in which convicted sex offenders are required to register with the Court Services and Supervision Agency (CSOSA). The Sex Offender Registration Act of 1999 established a sex offender registration program for the District of Columbia and authorizes the Metropolitan Police Department to release sex offender information to the public. People convicted or found innocent by reason of insanity must register for ten years or for life, depending on the circumstances of the charges.

- ① Get information about the MPD's Sex Offender Registry at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/serv/sor/sor.shtm>
- ① Search for certain classifications of registered sex offenders online at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/serv/sor/impremind.shtm>
- ① Get additional information about the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency at:
<http://www.csosa.gov>

WENDT CENTER SEEKS COUNSELORS FOR CAMP FORGET-ME-NOT

The Wendt Center for Loss and Healing in Washington DC is hosting its annual 3 day sleep-away bereavement camp for children, July 30, 31 and August 1, 2004. Camp Forget-Me-Not offers 50 children (ages 6–15) from the metro Washington, DC area who have experienced a loss due to death the opportunity to enter a safe space—away from their everyday lives—to gently explore the normal process of grief. Camp Forget-Me-Not provides a protected and enjoyable environment where each child's self-expression is heard, valued, and honored. Each camper is paired with an adult "Buddy" for the weekend. The weekend blends traditional camp programming (swimming, confidence course, camp fires, sports) with grief-focused activities, including support groups, therapeutic art, play-back theater, and a memorial boat launch.

Volunteers must: (1) be 21 years old or older, (2) have experienced a loss due to death, (3) submit to a criminal background check, (4) attend a pre-camp volunteer training session, and (5) commit to the entire weekend.

The organization is in great need of more counselors, with a particular need for black male volunteers.

- ① For more information about volunteering for Camp Forget-Me-Not, please contact Stephanie Handel on (202) 624-0010 x106—shandel@wendtcenter.org. Learn more about Camp Forget-Me-Not—see pictures of last year's camp or download a volunteer application—at:
<http://www.wendtcenter.org>

NEWS & NOTES

GWU to Offer New Program for Area Law Enforcement Officers. The George Washington University's College of Professional Studies (CPS) recently announced its Police Science Undergraduate Certificates, Associate's and Bachelor's Degree Program, specifically designed for the police through a year-long collaboration with metropolitan-area law enforcement experts and police specialists. CPS plans a July 2004 launch for this challenging new curriculum. Details on this new program are available at <http://www.cps.gwu.edu>.

Civilian Job Vacancies. The MPDC continues to recruit for a number of managerial and professional positions within its civilian ranks. For details, click on <http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/employ/civilian.shtm>.

DATA BOX

Homicides (as of 6/4/04)

- 2004: 83
- 2003: 102
- % Change: -18.6%
- Closure Rate: 53.0% (443 closures)

Adult Arrests (week end. 5/29/04)

- Total: 1,107
- Drugs: 127
- Weapons: 19
- Motor Vehicle Theft: 12
- Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 65

Firearm Recoveries (as of 6/2/04)

- June: 9
- May: 166
- 2004 Total: 876

Traffic Fatalities (as of 6/4/04)

- 2004: 25
- 2003: 25
- % Change: No change

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov. Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

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